

THE BEST TYPES OF SHADE TREES

Opinions From Experts In Ten Representative Cities.

NORWAY MAPLE HEADS LIST.

A Thorough Knowledge of Local Conditions is Essential in Making the Choice—American Elm and Red Oak Next in Line.

"If you were asked to select the six species of trees best adapted for planting in the residential streets of your city, what species would you choose, and why?"

A table has been compiled from replies received from ten representative city foresters and shade tree commissioners to the above question, submitted to them by the editor of the American City.

As each forester was given six votes, a total of sixty choices was recorded, the highest possible number of votes for any one species of tree being ten.



ELMS IN EAST ORANGE, N. J.

Irrespective of the order of choice, the highest total number of votes went to the Norway maple, with nine counts to its credit. The second on the list is the American elm, with seven votes, and the red oak follows with six.

Considered from the point of view of the combined number of first and second choices recorded in their favor, the three trees most highly regarded by this jury of experts are the Oriental plane, Norway maple and American elm, each of which received four such votes. Taking the first choice votes alone, the American elm heads the list with four counts and the Oriental plane with three. The largest number of second selections went to the Norway maple with three and the sugar maple with two second choice votes.

The ten foresters whose co-operation has made possible the compilation of this article are the following:

Brooklyn.—J. J. Levison, master of forestry.

Buffalo.—H. B. Filer, city forester.

Cleveland, O.—George Rettig, landscape architect.

Chicago.—J. H. Frost, city forester.

East Orange, N. J.—William Solotaroff, superintendent shade tree commission.

Grand Rapids, Mich.—Hugh E. Lynett, city forester.

New Orleans.—E. Baker, superintendent parking commission.

St. Louis.—Julius Koenig, city forester.

Washington.—Truman Lanham, superintendent trees and parkings.

West Newton, Mass.—Charles I. Bucknam, forest commissioner.

It should be made clear that each of these men was asked for an expression of opinion as to the best species of trees for his own city and that their recommendations should not be regarded as applying to cities having marked differences in soil, climate and other conditions affecting the growth and life of shade trees. Many trees which give excellent satisfaction in New Orleans, for example, would be of little or no value in St. Louis or Buffalo. Every municipality should, of course, have a really capable shade tree commission or city forester, trained by observation and experience to solve problems as they arise and to make selections according to the several conditions he encounters without undue regard to what may be considered best elsewhere.

The beautiful effects made possible by the proper planting of one species of tree on a street are shown in the accompanying illustrations.

In certain cities too much time and effort have been expended in the removal of poplar and other short lived trees and in replanting for individuals. As a general rule, it is believed that more satisfactory results can be secured by concentrated efforts on the planting of entire streets where the residents will permit the removal of all the undesirable trees.

MAPLES IN A SUBURBAN TOWN.

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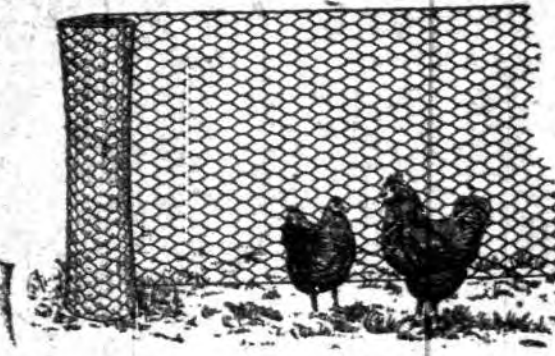
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THE GROWTH OF THE PLAYGROUNDS

Remarkable Development of the Movement In America.

ITS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Herbert H. Weir, Field Secretary of the Playground Association of America For the Pacific Coast, Tells of the Birth and Life of This Movement.

The playground movement had its origin in the various social, educational, economic and civic problems growing out of the change from country to urban life, in an awakened conscience relative to the welfare of children and in a keener, more intelligent and sympathetic appreciation of young life in its right to be healthy, vigorous and happy.

Historically the movement began in Boston about 1886 and was concerned only with the needs and pleasures of little children. During the years intervening between that date and the last years of the last century the movement lay dormant. This was a period of tremendous city and town growth, of a wonderful increase in the intricacies and complexities of social, industrial, educational and civic problems. One great fact among many others borne up from the depths of that time was that the children and the young people were finding themselves hard put to survive. The abnormal conditions of almost instantaneous city growth had come upon them unawares.

No age has, however, been without its visionaries who saw the light and led the way, so luckily there were men and women, especially women, who saw and understood and acted. The people of Chicago were the first to see that it was as important to provide for the play needs of the children and young people and for the recreational needs of all the people as it was to have efficient departments of public service, far more important also than to have efficient departments of public safety, for the safety of the people lies not in repression of the wrongdoer and



A PARK PLAYGROUND IN A LARGE CITY.

In curing the maimed, the halt, the blind, but in preventing him from ever becoming a wrongdoer, from ever becoming diseased and inefficient, by giving him a better chance of being a healthy, vigorous and happy minded citizen.

Although in the beginning playgrounds were generally originated and managed under private auspices, and this still remains true in a large percentage of communities today, nevertheless the importance of the movement is such that it is now a settled principle that the organization, management and maintenance of playgrounds and other forms of recreation shall be under some regularly organized municipal authority and that the work should be supported by public funds.

The second principle is that there shall be provision made for all year round activity, otherwise it will be impossible to secure and keep a corps of efficient, well trained leaders and directors. This kind of work can be developed through use of school buildings for evening recreation purposes and through the construction of municipal recreation buildings, or through the use of other public buildings, or by utilizing all these agencies, as in the case of Columbus, O. The most economical, and perhaps the most effective, way is to utilize school buildings for this purpose, although there will always be need for special buildings in large cities at least, and in the case of school buildings there will have to be certain architectural changes in order to make the buildings very practical.

The third principle is that playground and recreation work must be in charge of trained leaders, directors and supervisors—men and women—skilled in calisthenics, gymnastics, athletics, plays and games, folk dancing, music, child hygiene, first aid to the injured, child psychology perhaps, having a knowledge of social conditions and relations, and, above everything else, filled with the spirit of childhood and possessing a wide social and spiritual vision. This type of man and woman is the great need of the movement today.

However, with the interest now being shown by universities, normal schools and colleges, inspired by the growing demand on the part of communities that teachers in the public schools should have some knowledge of play activities, as well as the demand for professional leaders and directors, the next half decade will find this weakness of the movement much lessened.—Herbert H. Weir in American City.

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